

[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.]

thickly populated place and is detached from the rest of the taluk. There have been repeated representations on the matter ; but still nothing has been done so far. I request the Government to take urgent action in the matter.

The House rose for lunch at 1 P. M. and re-assembled at 2 P. M.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The following members took the oath and signed the rolls.

Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai, B. A. (Oxon), (*Conservator of Forests.*)

Mr. C. Kumara Das, M. A., B. Sc., (*Director of Industries.*)

Mr. P. Paramesvaran Pillai, B. A., B. L., (*Ag. Registrar of Co-operative Societies.*)

DEMAND X—MEDICAL--(contd.)

Mr. K. R. Elenkath : Sir, I oppose this demand in order to bring to the notice of Government the difficulties experienced by the patient public in getting adequate relief from the Government hospitals, both in regard to the supply of medicines given and the conveniences and facilities afforded to them especially the in-patients. I will also refer to the difficulties owing to the inadequacy of the supply of medicines, drugs and other conveniences such as provisions for bed and dieting chiefly in the rural hospitals. Sir, the attraction of the public towards Government hospitals as contrasted with that towards aided and mission hospitals is that they get medicine free of cost and that they have a feeling that they will meet with persons who are entrusted with the responsibility of looking after their needs on being paid from the public funds. Now, Sir, when medicines which are very costly are required doctors give prescription and ask the patient to get such and such medicine from the nearest chemist or druggist. Sir, this is not only a hard case so far as the poor persons who seek medical aid are concerned but it gives room for misapprehension among the public that some of these doctors who prescribe such medicines and even suggest the shops of druggists may be getting a commission from these druggists. There may or may not be such cases. But it is the duty of Government to see that any cause for such misapprehension among the public is removed.

With regard to certain hospitals in rural areas, I know that some of the hospitals in my constituency, for example, the Parassala hospital, has been deteriorating in very recent times in the number of patients, in supply of medicines and in many other respects. Considering that the Parassala hospital has been intended to meet with and has been meeting steadily the requirements of a